

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04890 241624Z

11
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SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER STATES NORWEGIAN POSITION ON SOUTHERN
AFRICA

REFS: (A) OSLO 4122, (B) OSLO 3888, (C) OSLO 3835, (D) NATO 4926,
(E) COPENHAGEN 2799

SUMMARY: NORWAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER RESTATED NORWAY'S SUPPORT
FOR THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE OUTLINED THAT
NORWAY WAS READY TO BACK UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
BOYCOTTING TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA BUT DID NOT BELIEVE A UNILATERAL
BOYCOTT WOULD BE OF USE. HE OUTLINES NORWEGIAN EFFORTS TO
RESTRICT TRADE AND PLANS TO SUPPORT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS,
PARTICULARLY ANC IN SOUTH AFRICA AND POSSIBLY TO UPGRADE SUPPORT
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PAGE 02 OSLO 04890 241624Z

TO MOZAMBIQUE. END SUPPARY

1. IN WAKE OF MEDIA DISCUSSION ABOUT NORWAY'S POLICY TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND RESTATED ON SEPT 21 OFFICIAL NORWEGIAN POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. FRYDENLUND PICKED UP CONCERN EXPRESSED RECENTLY IN NORWEGIAN MEDIA ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE LIBERATIONS STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHILE AT SAME TIME COUNTRY'S TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA WAS INCREASING. POINTING OUT THIS WAS DILEMMA GOVERNMENT FACED, HE INDICATED THIS WAS SPECIFIC REASON WHY GOVERNMENT HAD DISCONTINUED SUPPORT MEASURES FOR EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD RESOLVED NOT TO ISSUE CURRENCY LICENSES FOR NORWEGIAN INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

3. FRYDENLUND ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT A UNILATERAL NORWEGIAN TRADE BOYCOTT, EITHER BY PRIVATE OR PUBLIC COMPANIES, WOULD NOT HAVE DESIRED EFFECT. HE NOTED THAT NORWAY HAS ALREADY STATED IT WOULD SUPPORT AND LOYALLY OBSERVE ANY UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON A TRADE BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA, EVEN THOUGH EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT SUCH TRADE BOYCOTTS TEND TO BIND TOGETHER THE GROUPS ONE TRIES TO WEAKEN THROUGH THE BOYCOTT. HE CITED SOUTHERN RHODESIA AS EXAMPLE. NORWEGIANS BOYCOTT RHODESIA BUT KNOW SOME OF THEIR PRODUCTS ARRIVE THERE THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA.

4. FRYDENLUND SAID NORWAY PLANNED TO INCREASE ITS AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND HE REFERRED TO EARLIER STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT MADE BY NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING AUG 19-20 IN COPENHAGEN (REF D). FOREIGN MINISTER SAID NORWEGIAN AID TO SUCH GROUPS HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED IN DEPENDENT AREAS, AS SET DOWN IN PARLIAMENTARY GUIDELINES. BUT IN LIGHT OF THE NEW SITUATION ARISING IN SOUTH AFRICA, FRYDENLUND SAID HE PLANS TO TAKE UP WITH PARLIAMENT POSSIBILITY OF ADAPTING GUIDELINES TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO GIVE DIRECT HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

5. NORWAY GAVE 15 MILLION NKR (\$2.8 MILLION) IN AID TO MOZAMBIQUE LAST YEAR. IN CONNECTION WITH RHODESIA-MOZAMBIQUE BOUNDARY CLOSING GOVERNMENT PROPOSED ALLOCATING ADDITIONAL 15 MILLION NKR., WHICH WILL BE TRANSFERRED AS SOON AS PARLIAMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 OSLO 04890 241624Z

APPROVES. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF STRENGTHENING AID TO MOZAMBIQUE AND MAKING IT A MAJOR COOPERATING COUNTRY FOR NORWEGIAN AID, AN ACTION WHICH WOULD UPGRADE NORWEGIAN PRIORITY AND CONTRIBUTION THERE.

6. ADMITTING THAT NORWAY COULD DO MORE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA HE NOTED WITH PLEASURE THAT NORWAY AND OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES HAD RECEIVED KUDOS FROM COLOMBO MEETING ON THEIR SUPPORT

FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA'S OPPRESSED PEOPLE AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.
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7. COMMENT: THE CONTINUING HIGH INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN
ISSUES AND THE EVIDENT SATISFACTION HERE WITH THE SECRETARY'S
SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY THERE HAS GENERATED INCREASING HOPE AMONG
NORWEGIANS THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA IS ONE OF THE AREAS AND POLITICAL
ISSUES WHERE EARLY PROGRESS MAY BE MADE. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT
IS CONCERNED THAT WESTERN EUROPEANS SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO LAG
BEHIND THEIR EASTERN COUNTERPARTS IN ENCOURAGING POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENTS AND SUPPORTING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA. THE GON, AND THEIR NORDIC COLLEAGUES, ARE SEEKING TO
KEEP THEIR POLICY AHEAD OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
IN HIS STATEMENT FRYDENLUND WAS SEEKING TO DEMONSTRATE THIS,
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING GOVERNMENT'S REASON WHY IT HAS NOT
SOUGHT TO ACT ALONE ON TRADE BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA.
BY TYING THEIR POSITION TO SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION NORWEGIANS
ALSO SEEK IMPROVE LIKELIHOOD OF BIG POWER SUPPORT FOR
ANY BOYCOTT MEASURES THEY MIGHT ENDORSE.
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ANDERS

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